

## Beyond 2022

Irish genealogy was forever changed after the infamous fire at the Public Record Office in Dublin on June 30, 1922. One hundred years later, the Irish government has partnered with the National Archives of Ireland and archives all over the world to restore and reconstruct the lost records in a project titled “Beyond 2022.”

### Objectives

To understand the historical context of the Four Courts Fire; to explore the websites for the Beyond 2022 project and the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland; and to introduce the records available for use in your research.

### The Battle of the Four Courts

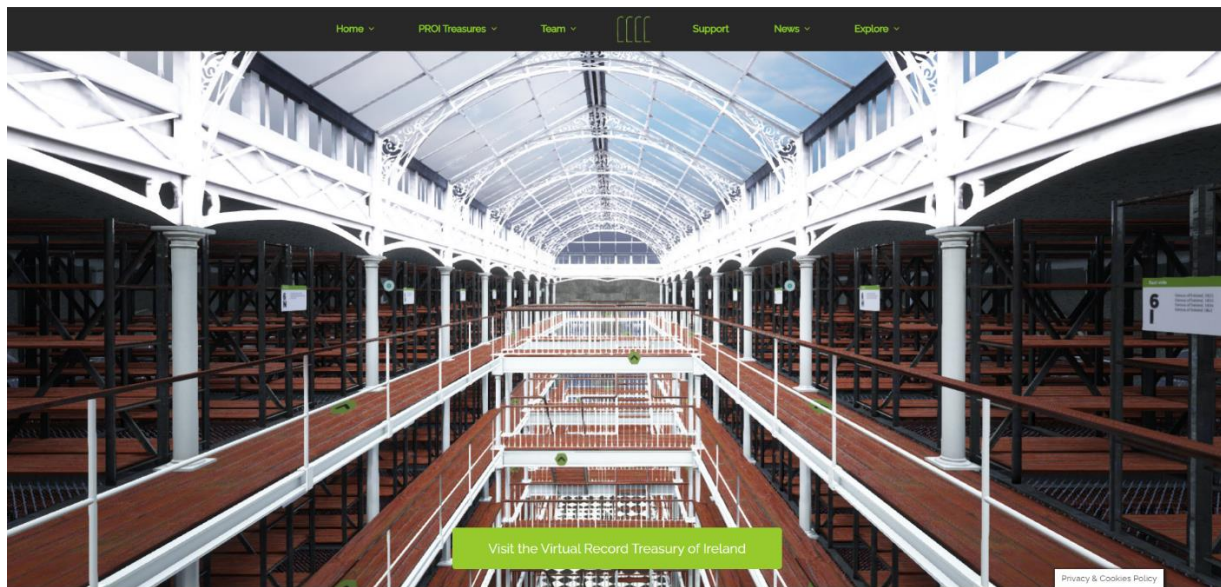
Timeline of Events	
21 January 1919	The Irish War of Independence officially begins. It is characterized by guerilla warfare and mixed reactions from the Irish people, particularly those in Ulster.
6 December 1921	The Anglo-Irish Treaty is signed. It states that the Irish Free State would become a part of the British Commonwealth, assuming part of its debts but largely self-governing. Northern Ireland would have the option to withdraw from the Irish Free State.
14 April 1922	The Anti-Treaty party, who want complete independence from Great Britain, occupy the Four Courts, the center of government in Dublin.
28 June 1922	After weeks of stalemate between the Anti-Treaty Party and the National Army, pressure from England makes Michael Collins open fire on the Four Courts in the early hours of the morning.
30 June 1922	At about 12:30 in the afternoon, there is an explosion at the Public Record Office. The ensuing fire destroys almost everything in the archive.

### Records held by the Public Record Office in 1922

- All wills probated before 1858.
- Church of Ireland records for most of the country—as Church of Ireland was the state church, their records were considered public and the parishes were told to send their registers. Thankfully, not all of them did.
- Marriage bonds before 1858.
- All government records from the start of English control in Ireland.

## Beyond 2022 → [www.beyond2022.ie](http://www.beyond2022.ie)

The best place to learn about the project and some of the history of the Public Record Office.



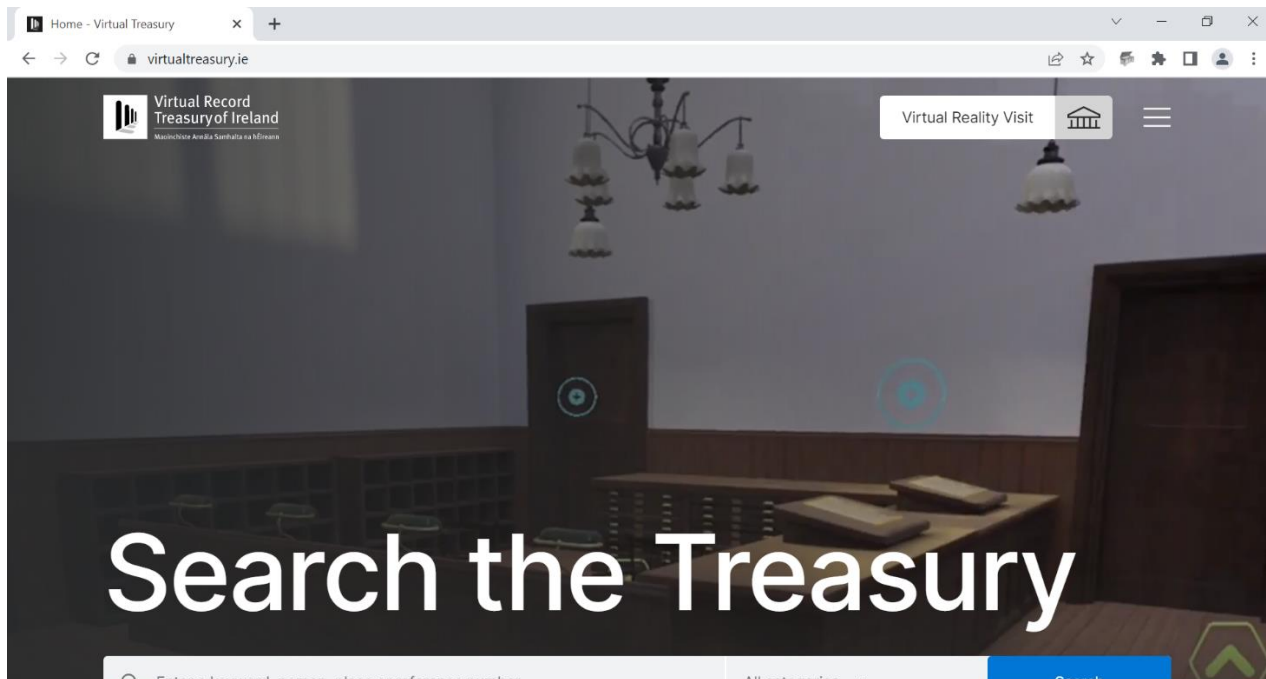
### Highlights

- “Stories”—a collection of galleries and records with interpretations and historical context
  - Access by hovering over “PROI Treasures” on the top menu then clicking “Stories” in the dropdown
- “Media Gallery”—a series of videos discussing in depth the methodology, the records, and the impact of the Beyond 2022 project
  - Access by hovering over “PROI Treasure” on the top menu then clicking “Media Gallery” in the dropdown
- “Explore”—has multiple highlighted collections with high-definition images of the records
  - Access by hovering over “Explore” on the top menu then select which document type you’d like

Keep in mind that while Beyond 2022 is the name of the project to restore records, most of the records are actually at the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland, so to conduct research you will want to be on [virtualtreasury.ie](http://virtualtreasury.ie) **not** [beyond2022.ie](http://beyond2022.ie).

## Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland → [www.virtualtreasury.ie](http://www.virtualtreasury.ie)

The best place to access and search historical records that used to be held at the Public Record Office



### Highlights

- “Virtual Reality Visit”—a digital tour of the PRO as it was in 1922 with informative texts, images, and access to records
  - Access by clicking on the “Virtual Reality Visit” button at the top of every page
- “For Genealogy”—a collection highlighting the recovered 1766 Religious Census and the wealth of names and information found on it
  - Access from the home page, scroll down below the search bar, then click on “For Genealogy”
- “For Curious Minds”—stories pieced together from Irish records, including the life of a medieval exchequer, 1000 women in Irish history, and the interesting Irish tradition of ‘bride kidnapping.’
  - Access from the home page, scroll down below the search bar, then click on “For Curious Minds”